

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended)

~~The water-based ink of claim 1,~~ A water-based ink comprising colored particles, which comprise a dye and a polymer having an acetal group, wherein the polymer having an acetal group is polyvinyl butyral.

Claims 4 and 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended)

~~The water-based ink of claim 1,~~ A water-based ink comprising colored particles, which comprise a dye and a polymer having an acetal group, wherein the colored particles have a core-shell structure composed of a core-phase and a shell-phase.

Claim 7 (original)

The water-based ink of claim 6, wherein the polymer having an acetal group in the core-phase of the colored particles accounts for no less than 50 weight-% of the

total weight of polymer included in the core-phase of the colored particles.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended)

~~The method of claim 8,~~ A method for preparing a water-based ink, wherein the method comprises a step of:

dispersing colored particles, which comprise a dye and a polymer having an acetal group, into an aqueous medium

wherein the polymer having an acetal group is polyvinyl butyral.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended)

~~The method of claim 8,~~ A method for preparing a water-based ink, wherein the method comprises a step of:

dispersing colored particles, which comprise a dye and a polymer having an acetal group, into an aqueous medium

wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises a following step after the dispersing step; adding a polymerizable monomer and polymerization initiator so as to form a shell phase on each of the colored particles.

Claim 12 (original)

The method of claim 11, wherein the polymer having an acetal group is polyvinyl butyral.

Claim 13 (original)

The method of claim 11, wherein the polymer having an acetal group in the colored particles accounts for no less than 50 weight-% of the total weight of polymer included in the colored particles.